



One Hundred Eleventh Congress  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20515

July 1, 2010

The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Robert F. Kennedy Department of Justice Building  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

The Honorable Martha N. Johnson  
Administrator  
U.S. General Services Administration  
1800 F Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20405

The Honorable W. Craig Fugate  
Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
500 C Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Attorney General Holder, Administrator Johnson, and Administrator Fugate:

On June 30, 2010, the New York Times reported that formaldehyde-ridden Temporary Housing Units (THU's) or travel trailers, originally used by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) after Hurricane Katrina, are now being resold to unsuspecting oil spill cleanup workers temporarily living in Louisiana.<sup>1</sup> Clearly, your efforts to prevent the resale of these trailers for human habitation have failed.

On multiple occasions, I have questioned the sale of these formaldehyde contaminated trailers<sup>2</sup>. In those letters, I warned of the health threat posed by the sale of these trailers

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<sup>1</sup> Ian Urbina, *Banned Trailers Return for Latest Gulf Disaster*, New York Times, June 30, 2010 available at: [<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/01/us/01trailers.html>].

<sup>2</sup> Letter from Bennie G. Thompson, Chairman, H.R. Comm. On Homeland Security to R. David Paulison, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency (April 19, 2007)  
Letter from Bennie G. Thompson, Chairman, H.R. Comm. On Homeland Security to R. David Paulison, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency (November 19, 2007)

at public auction and stressed to FEMA, the General Services Administration (GSA) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) that such units would likely be resold to consumers with no warning of their toxicity. In response to these concerns, your respective agencies have repeatedly issued assurances attesting either to the safety of the units or the soundness of the process. For instance, when I expressed concerns that these formaldehyde contaminated units were being sold at public auction to unsuspecting buyers, in a letter dated April 1, 2009, FEMA indicated that the GSA buyers' certification language would be strengthened to require all buyers to certify that these units would not be used as housing. Additionally, according to FEMA and GSA, these buyers would be required to inform any subsequent purchaser that these units should not be used for human habitation and should not be sold as housing units.<sup>3</sup> Buyers were also required to acknowledge that the units they were buying might have formaldehyde.

The New York Times article concerning the use of these formaldehyde-contaminated trailers as housing indicates that FEMA, GSA and DOJ's efforts to prevent these units from entering the stream of commerce, serving as dwellings suitable for human habitation, or preventing exposure to unsuspecting residents have failed. Once again, these trailers are endangering the lives and health of Gulf Coast residents. In other words, as I predicted several years ago, certifications, warnings and pasted on disclaimers are not enough to protect health and safety.

The dumping of over 100,000 trailers, recreational vehicles, and mobile homes into the stream of commerce with a simple buyer beware is inexcusable and reckless. Many of these units have alarming levels of formaldehyde, mold, and mildew festering inside, and now they are housing many of the workers that our nation is relying on to help us recover from the devastating affects of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. It is simply irresponsible for our federal government to allow this to continue. For these reasons, I am requesting that at a minimum, you investigate the following:

1. It is apparent that from this article the purchasers of the THU's are in violation of their agreement with GSA. What steps is GSA taking to investigate this matter? Should the purchasers be found in violation of the agreement, what penalties will they face and when will the DOJ begin prosecutions?

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Letter from Bennie G. Thompson, Chairman, H.R. Comm. On Homeland Security to R. David Paulison, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency (December 12, 2007)

Letter from Bennie G. Thompson, Chairman, H.R. Comm. On Homeland Security to R. David Paulison, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency (November 13, 2008)

Letter from Bennie G. Thompson, Chairman, H.R. Comm. On Homeland Security to Nancy Ward, Acting Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency (March 12, 2009)

Letter from Bennie G. Thompson, Chairman, H.R. Comm. On Homeland Security to Nancy Ward, Acting Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency (May 7, 2009)

Letter from Bennie G. Thompson, Chairman H.R. Comm. On Homeland Security to Eric H. Holder, Jr., Attorney General, Department of Justice (January 26, 2010)

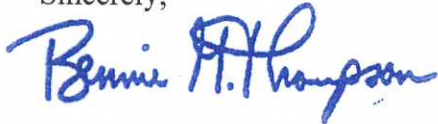
Letter from Bennie G. Thompson, Chairman H.R. Comm. On Homeland Security to Eric H. Holder, Jr., Attorney General, Department of Justice (March 18, 2010)

<sup>3</sup> See attached document

2. It was stated in the article that FEMA placed decals on the THU's stating that they were not to be used as housing. What type of decals or warning stickers did FEMA place inside of each trailer? If decals were placed inside trailers, why did subsequent purchasers claim that there were no such decals? If these decals were removed from the units prior to resale, what are the penalties for doing so?
3. The article states the GSA Inspector General (IG) has opened at least seven cases concerning buyers who might not have posted the certification and formaldehyde warnings on trailers they sold. What is the status of each case and has the IG opened any additional cases as a result of the New York Times article?
4. Did any purchaser provide any documentation indicating how they intended to use the trailers? If so, please provide to the Committee.

Thank you, in advance, for taking the time to answer this request and for your cooperation on this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Cherri Branson, Chief Oversight Counsel, at 202-226-2616. I look forward to hearing from you no later than July 15, 2010.

Sincerely,



Bennie G. Thompson  
Chairman



One Hundred Tenth Congress  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20515

November 19, 2007

The Honorable R. David Paulison  
Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
500 C Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Administrator Paulison:

I am writing to you regarding the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) recent decision to suspend the testing of travel trailers. As you know, media reports have indicated that travel trailer residents have reported nosebleeds, sinus infections, asthma attacks, and other respiratory illnesses. Tests conducted in 2006 revealed that the formaldehyde levels in most of the trailers tested exceeded the Environmental Protection Agency's recommended limit.

FEMA has been aware of dangers associated with formaldehyde exposure since at least July of 2006. In a job hazard analysis conducted by FEMA, "formaldehyde exposure" was listed as a source of "potential injury" for FEMA personnel entering travel trailers. While FEMA acted prudently to warn employees who may have limited exposure to formaldehyde from these trailers, the agency did not exercise the same diligence toward Hurricane Katrina and Rita evacuees who resided in these trailers for many months. Some evacuees continue to reside in these trailers.

On July 3, 2007, I wrote to the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Chief Medical Officer to express concerns over the failure to conduct a field investigation into the potential adverse health effects experienced by residents of FEMA travel trailers. In July 2007, I was assured by DHS's Chief Medical Officer that the Department was working with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and representatives from the National Institute for Standards and Technology to "initiate and complete field work before the end of the hottest months, in order to capture the most complete data."<sup>1</sup> Obviously, this deadline has been missed.

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from Jeffrey W. Runge, M.D., Department of Homeland Security, Acting Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs, Chief Medical Officer, to Bennie G. Thompson, Chairman, H.R. Comm. on Homeland Security (July 31, 2007).



November 19, 2007

Page 2

During interviews with Committee staff, officials from the CDC stated that formaldehyde emissions and exposure levels are typically highest during the hot, humid summer months.<sup>2</sup> Therefore, it would seem that tests conducted during winter months will be skewed and will likely fail to provide an accurate picture of formaldehyde levels reflective of living conditions that travel trailer residents faced for the majority of the year. While I am not intimating that you should further delay testing, I do find it troubling that FEMA would choose a time for testing that would likely yield results which are unlikely to be either reflective or generalizable.

Pursuant to Rule X (3)(g) and Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I request a written response to the following questions no later than December 3, 2007.

- 1) In June 2006, FEMA acknowledged that potential injuries can occur due to formaldehyde exposure. Please provide a narrative response indicating the rationale for FEMA's decision to suspend and delay the testing of travel trailers?
- 2) The Department of Housing and Urban Development has established standards for formaldehyde emission levels in manufactured homes. Why has FEMA not adopted and used these levels while administering its emergency housing program?
- 3) What plans does FEMA have to ensure that the testing procedures are reflective of the year round conditions endured by travel trailer residents?
- 4) When will FEMA begin additional testing? What tests have already been conducted? What was determined during those tests? When does FEMA expect testing to be finalized? When will all tests results be made publicly available?

Should you have any questions, please contact Cherri Branson, Chief Oversight Counsel, Committee on Homeland Security, at (202) 226-2616. Thank you for your consideration in this important matter.

Sincerely,



Bennie G. Thompson  
Chairman

BGT/rdh

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<sup>2</sup> U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security staff interview with Tom Sinks, Deputy Director, National Center for Environmental Health, Agency for Toxic Substances (ATSDR) and Disease Registry and Chris De Rosa, Director of Toxicology and Environmental Medicine, et. al., ATSDR; June 21, 2007.



One Hundred Tenth Congress  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20515

December 12, 2007

The Honorable R. David Paulison  
Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Department of Homeland Security  
500 C Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Administrator Paulison:

I am writing to follow up on my November 19, 2007 letter to you concerning the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) decision to suspend testing of travel trailers. I requested that you respond to this letter by December 3, 2007, but I have yet to receive a response.

As you know, on November 29, 2007, a Federal Court in Louisiana ordered FEMA to submit a plan for testing the air quality of travel trailers used to house disaster victims. According to press reports, FEMA has until December 17, 2007, to respond to the Court's order.

I urge you to comply with this Federal Court order. Of course, had FEMA initiated testing of these travel trailers, as requested in my letter of July 3, 2007, the agency would not find itself once again under a court order to provide fair and equitable treatment to Hurricane Katrina survivors. This is not the first time the Federal Courts have been forced to intervene to protect Hurricane Katrina disaster victims. On June 13, 2007, a Federal Court in the U.S. Eastern District of Louisiana issued an order to stop FEMA from terminating, discontinuing, or withholding assistance from disaster victims.

FEMA has known for well over a year that formaldehyde exposure can have negative health impacts. It is less than encouraging that the Federal Court system has been forced to become an active party in the administration of FEMA's disaster assistance programs.

This foot-dragging must stop. Pursuant to Rule X (3)(g) and Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, provide me with your plan to conduct testing of these trailers or your rationale for refusing to comply with this court order no later than December 17, 2007.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Bennie G. Thompson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bennie" being more prominent.

Bennie G. Thompson  
Chairman



One Hundred Tenth Congress  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20515  
November 13, 2008

The Honorable R. David Paulison  
Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Department of Homeland Security  
500 C Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Administrator Paulison:

It has been brought to my attention that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), working through the General Services Administration (GSA) is once again selling trailers that may have been contaminated with formaldehyde to the general public. As you may recall, Rep. Henry Waxman, Chair of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and I previously contacted you regarding this issue<sup>1</sup>. In the response to that letter, you assured us that health and safety information would be distributed to occupants of these trailers and that GSA would post the information on their auction website as well as distribute it to those who purchased the surplus trailers.

I am pleased to know that information on the dangers of formaldehyde is distributed to the purchasers of trailers when those trailers are purchased as surplus products and are intended for human habitation.

However, recently, I have become aware of another unsettling possibility. It has come to my attention that GSA has begun to sell trailers which may have been contaminated with formaldehyde under a "scrap" designation. While the GSA website clearly designates these trailers as "scrap," accompanying pictures seem to indicate that these potentially formaldehyde contaminated trailers are being sold in a physically intact condition. Due to this intact condition and despite GSA warnings to the contrary, it is more than plausible that these trailers may be used as dwellings either by immediate or subsequent purchasers despite their designation as "scrap." I am deeply concerned about the well-being of those individuals who may unwittingly come to reside in these

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from Eric Smith, Department of Homeland Security, Assistant Administrator, Logistics Management Directorate, to Bennie G. Thompson, Chairman, H.R. Comm. On Homeland Security (July 19, 2007).

potentially contaminated trailers. Because of my concern that these formaldehyde contaminated trailers may be permitted into the stream of commerce and may ultimately serve as dwellings for people who are unaware of their contamination, and pursuant to Rule X (3)(g) and Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, please respond to the following questions no later than November 21, 2008:

- 1) Although the trailers being sold by GSA are designated as scrap material, are the accompanying photographs, which depict them as intact units accurate?
- 2) What legal title documents are being conveyed with these trailers?
- 3) Do the trailers possess any clearly visible, immutable and permanent marking that would tend to indicate that these trailers are either not suitable for human habitation or are likely to be contaminated by formaldehyde?

Should you have any questions, please contact Cherri Branson, Chief Oversight Counsel at (202) 226-2616.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Bennie G. Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "B".

Bennie G. Thompson  
Chairman





One Hundred Eleventh Congress  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20515

March 12, 2009

Nancy Ward  
Acting Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C. Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20472

Acting Administrator Ward:

Recent news articles have revealed that trailers originally purchased by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), declared surplus because of possible formaldehyde contamination, and subsequently auctioned by the General Services Administration (GSA) as "scrap" have been found in several trailer parks located in the states of Missouri and Georgia. It appears that the owners of these trailer parks purchased these unsafe units specifically to serve as rental dwellings despite prominent display of the word "scrap" affixed to each trailer<sup>1</sup>.

This situation was not unforeseeable.

On November 13, 2009 a letter regarding FEMA's decision to dispose of these trailers through the GSA auction process was sent to your predecessor, Administrator Paulison. At that time, I expressed my concern that the "scrap" designation would not prevent these trailers from entering the stream of commerce and that they may ultimately find their way into rental communities. I suggested that the selling of these trailers by the GSA in a physically intact condition was an invitation to expose unwitting individuals to these formaldehyde contaminated trailers. I wrote "due to this intact condition and despite GSA warnings to the contrary, it is more than plausible that these trailers may be used as dwellings either by immediate or subsequent purchasers despite their designation as 'scrap'"<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Mike Bruner, "Scrap" FEMA Mobile Homes return as housing, MSNBC.com, March 5, 2009

<sup>2</sup> Letter from Bennie G. Thompson, Chairman, H.R. Comm. On Homeland Security to R. David Paulison, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency (November 13, 2009)

Because of my concern that FEMA trailers, sold as "scrap" are being used as rental dwellings and pursuant to Rule X (3) (g) and Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, please respond to the following questions no later than Monday, March 23, 2009.

1. In previous correspondence, FEMA acknowledged that "the purchaser must sign a statement that they will not use these trailers for short or long term housing"<sup>3</sup>.
  - a. What steps will FEMA and GSA take to ensure that those responsible for breaking this agreement and renting out trailers not intended for habitation be held accountable for their actions?
2. In previous correspondence, FEMA indicated that the word "scrap" would be stenciled on all sides of the trailers to be sold and that, "the physical and visible condition of the units itself (*sic*) is a clear indicator that these units are not suitable for human habitation."<sup>4</sup> Clearly these measures were not enough. As long as these units are sold in an intact physical condition, unscrupulous individuals will seek to transfer them into the stream of commerce. In a previous letter, FEMA indicated that it would explore resale of these units only to recyclers. What progress has been made in pursuing this effort?
3. It has come to my attention that on March 4, 2009, FEMA issued a Request for Information (RFI) to "research the logistics and costs associated with the remediation of formaldehyde-contaminated manufactured housing and recreational vehicles."<sup>5</sup> This letter serves as a continuing request for FEMA to provide information to this Committee on all responses received in relation to this RFI as well as any other solicitation undertaken to engage in remediation activities of trailers or temporary housing undertaken as a result of contracting vehicles entered into as a result of this or any other RFI covering the same or similar topic.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Cherri Branson, Chief Oversight Counsel at (202) 226-2616.

Sincerely,



Bennie G. Thompson  
Chairman  
Committee on Homeland Security

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<sup>3</sup> Letter from R. David Paulison, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management to Bennie G. Thompson, Chairman, H.R. Comm. On Homeland Security (December 1, 2008)

<sup>4</sup> Letter from R. David Paulison, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management to Bennie G. Thompson, Chairman, H.R. Comm. On Homeland Security (December 1, 2008)

<sup>5</sup>



One Hundred Eleventh Congress  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20515

May 7, 2009

Nancy Ward  
Acting Administrator  
FEMA  
500 C Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20472

Acting Administrator Ward:

Thank you for your April 29, 2009 letter responding to my request for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and General Services Administration (GSA) to alter the current plan to dispose of excess trailers in FEMA's inventory. I am pleased that both agencies have agreed to work together to dispose of these units through the process of negotiated disposals. I look forward to periodic updates.

Your letter also mentioned the obligation for GSA to explain to both the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs of your plan should the anticipated market value of these units be greater than \$15,000. While I encourage both agencies to follow all requirements of the process, I find it doubtful that this step will be necessary. Since the units will only be eligible for sale as scrap, their value will likely be diminished far below the \$15,000 statutory threshold.

Again, thank you for your help with this important issue. If you should have any further questions, please feel free to contact Cherri Branson, Chief Oversight Counsel at (202) 226-2616.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bennie G. Thompson".

Bennie G. Thompson  
Chairman



One Hundred Eleventh Congress  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20515

January 26, 2010

Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr.  
Robert F. Kennedy Department of Justice Building  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Holder:

As you may know, the General Services Administration (GSA) is in the process of auctioning over one-hundred thousand recreational vehicles (RV) and manufactured homes in lots as large as 20,000 units. The closing date for this most recent auction is Friday, January 29, 2010. These trailers and mobile homes were previously used by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as temporary housing to the hurricane victims following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

It is my understanding that there is a statutory requirement that a sale of such magnitude receive prior approval from your office. Specifically, 40 U.S.C. §559(b)(1) requires that “[a]n executive agency shall not dispose of property to a private interest until the agency has received the advice of the Attorney General on whether the disposal to a private interest would tend to create or maintain a situation inconsistent with antitrust law.”

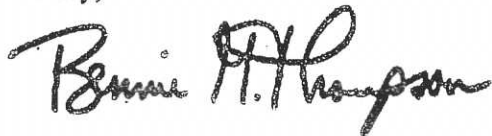
With approximately 103,000 units available for auction – in a projected market of only 203,500, units for 2010<sup>[1]</sup> – the auction has the potential of flooding the RV and manufactured housing market nationwide and hurting the economic security of countless Americans. Furthermore, selling units in lots of up to 20,000 will only benefit a small segment of investors seeking to make profit reselling these units, possibly without addressing the variety of safety and health issues acknowledged by GSA on the auction website. It also limits the pool of potential buyers by preventing individuals and small businesses who are also seeking to purchase these units for their personal use. The combination of numerous units being auctioned together and a limited pool of potential purchasers, appears to support the argument that the auction could facilitate the commission of an antitrust violation by private purchasers.

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<sup>[1]</sup> See <http://www.rvbusiness.com/2010/01/multiple-industries-fear-flood-of-fema-trailers/>.

Therefore, I am requesting that your office review GSA's actions and determine whether the appropriate review has been conducted by your office. If so, please provide me with a copy of the written determination concerning the permissibility of this sale.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Bennie G. Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "B" and "T".

Bennie G. Thompson  
Chairman  
Committee on Homeland Security



**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 18, 2010

Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr.  
Robert F. Kennedy Department of Justice Building  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Holder:

We are contacting you as a follow up to the letter of January 26, 2010 by Chairman Bennie G. Thompson, Chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security.

As you may know, the General Services Administration (GSA) recently completed public auctions for tens of thousands of Temporary Housing Units (THU's). However, final disposition of these units cannot occur until the Department of Justice examines the sales for antitrust implications and renders a determination.

These units, commonly called "trailers" were originally purchased by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide interim shelter to survivors of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. However, it soon became apparent that many of these units were contaminated by formaldehyde. Therefore, at the urging of Congress, FEMA did not deploy these units for use by disaster survivors. Our concerns about the adverse health effects of living in these units have only increased with each succeeding year.

Thus, for almost five years, over 100,000 of these units have remained unoccupied. The trailers are stored in discrete groupings on open air lots. Exposure to various weather conditions while stored on these open air lots have caused many of these formaldehyde contaminated trailers to be further contaminated with mold and mildew. These are the units that FEMA now seeks to sell as "excess" federal property through the General Service's Administration's public auction apparatus.

Under 40 U.S.C 488, the disposal of certain Federal property requires a determination from the Department of Justice as to whether the sale "would tend to create or maintain a situation inconsistent with the antitrust laws." The Department has determined that there are "no antitrust concerns" with this massive sale. It was able to reach that conclusion by separately examining the circumstances surrounding the sale of each discrete group of trailers.

Unfortunately, this analysis was inappropriate. An analysis that examines each individual sale does not consider the "big picture" and thus cannot purport to scrutinize the effect on the market. To understand the antitrust implications on a "market" one must look at the totality of the market and include facts about the market. The Department of Justice analysis ignored that the combined sale of these trailers will total over 103,000 units. The industry estimates that a total of 159,500 travel trailers were sold in 2009 and estimate that numbers for 2010 could reach 203,500<sup>1</sup>. Thus, an appropriate analytical framework would examine the impact that these GSA sponsored trailer sales— in their entirety — will have on the THU market. We find it difficult to believe that dumping over 100,000 used THUs, approximately fifty percent of the entire THU market, into the stream of commerce will not create a substantial and negative effect on the price and supply of trailers. Furthermore, given the recent safety concerns involving formaldehyde poisoning, we must also have guarantees that these units are safe enough for potential buyers and occupants.

Thus we urge you to reevaluate the sale of the THUs for antitrust violations in light of the impact that these sales, taken as a whole, might have on the THU market and respectfully request that the Department intervene to halt the further sale of the THUs.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

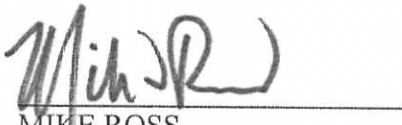
Sincerely,



BENNIE G. THOMPSON  
Member of Congress



DIANE E. WATSON  
Member of Congress



MIKE ROSS  
Member of Congress

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<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.rvlife.com/index.php/News-Brief/improved-rv-sales-predicted.html>



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<b>Bid</b> TRAVEL TRAILER	31QSCI09065007	3,913 USD	MD	8	06/18 06:13 PM CT *		

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2006 MONACO COACH TRAVEL TRAILER, MDL HOLIDAY RAMBLER, 8X32, (2) AXLES, VIN: 1KB131L256W164614, BARCODE: 1255205, (2) BEDROOMS, KEYS, NO HOLDING TANK, OPTIONS: NONE, MISSING ITEMS NONE, INTERNAL DAMAGE NONE, EXTERNAL DAMAGE NONE, \*\*\*\*\*REPAIRS REQUIRED BUT NOT LIMITED TO: WATER INTRUSION DAMAGE, MISSING AND NON-OPERABLE COMPONENTS, STORM, USAGE AND ROAD STRUCTURAL DAMAGE. THOSE ACQUIRING UNITS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO INSPECT THEM DURING DESIGNATED OPEN SITE VISITS. \*\*\*\*\*SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS MUST LOAD AND REMOVE. REMOVAL BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. NO REMOVAL ON THE DAY AFTER THE SALE ENDS. \*\*\*PLEASE NOTE: ALL LENGTH MEASUREMENTS INCLUDE THE TONGUE. \*\*\*CAUTION: AWARDED BIDDERS ARE REQUIRED TO SCHEDULE A REMOVAL APPOINTMENT AND FURNISH A COPY OF THEIR PURCHASER'S RECEIPT IN ORDER TO REMOVE. \*\*\*PLEASE NOTE: SEE ATTACHED ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDANCE ON THESE UNITS. \*\*\*IMPORTANT MESSAGE: ALL PHOTOS SHOWN ARE ONLY A REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE OF THE TOTAL SUM OF THE TRAILERS IN THIS LOT. GSA WILL ISSUE A CERTIFICATE TO OBTAIN TITLE (SF-97) FOR EACH TRAVEL TRAILER WITHIN A MULTI-TRAILER LOT. GSA WILL CALCULATE THE PURCHASE PRICE TO BE STATED ON EACH SF-97 BY DIVIDING THE TOTAL CONTRACT AWARD PRICE BY THE NUMBER OF TRAVEL TRAILERS IN THE LOT. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHALL GSA CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR ALTERNATIVE ALLOCATIONS OF THE TOTAL CONTRACT AWARD PRICE. UNITS ARE SOLD AS DESCRIBED IN THE SALE OFFERING WITH NO EVALUATION OF CONDITION. THE PURCHASING ENTITY ASSUMES ALL COSTS OF TRANSPORTATION, COSTS TO MAKE UNITS ROADWORTHY AND ALL LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE UNITS AT THE TIME OF PURCHASE. \*\*\*\*\*TRAVEL TRAILER PURCHASERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO SIGN A BUYER'S CERTIFICATE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT A PURCHASED TRAVEL TRAILER IS NOT TO BE USED AS HOUSING AND WILL NOT BE RE-SOLD AS HOUSING. TRAVEL TRAILERS ARE RECREATIONAL VEHICLES WHICH ARE NOT MANUFACTURED TO FEDERAL HOUSING STANDARDS. IN ADDITION, PRIOR TO SALE, FEMA WILL PLACE A CLEARLY-VISIBLE DECAL "NOT TO BE USED FOR HOUSING" ON THE DOOR WINDOW OF EACH TRAVEL TRAILER. SIGNED BUYER'S CERTIFICATES MUST BE FAXED TO 215-446-5116. NO PURCHASER'S RECEIPT WILL BE RELEASED UNTIL SIGNED BUYER'S CERTIFICATE IS RECEIVED. (703112/9113,0218)

THE CONDITION OF THE PROPERTY IS NOT WARRANTED.

**THE GOVERNMENT MAY NOT HAVE TESTED ALL OF THESE UNITS FOR FORMALDEHYDE.**

Formaldehyde is used in the manufacture of travel trailers, park models and manufactured housing and may still be present in these units. Please ensure you read these links which provide additional environmental guidance on these units:



For Better View, Click on Photo

**This may be a representative photo, not an actual photo of the unit(s) being sold.**

Additional pictures- Mouse Over or click to enlarge





[Indoor Air Quality and Health in FEMA Temporary Housing  
What You Should Know About Formaldehyde in  
Manufactured Housing](#)  
[Formaldehyde Exposure in Homes: A Reference for State  
Officials to Use in Decision-making](#)

**Successful bidders of travel trailers must sign the  
attached [Sales Certification](#)**

**Special Inspection Information:**

INSPECTION AND REMOVAL BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.  
INSPECTION DATES

6/12/09 - 6/18/09: 8:30AM - 3PM. NO REMOVAL ON 1ST  
BUSINESS DAY

AFTER SALE ENDS OR WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS. JULY 3 IS A  
HOLIDAY.

**Please contact the custodian for inspection dates and times  
and for removal arrangements.**

Successful bidders are cautioned that they will be responsible  
for loading and removal of any and all property awarded to them  
from the exact place where the property is located, as indicated  
below

**Property Location and inquiries/questions regarding  
removal:**

FEMA

12128 New Georges Creek Road, S.W.

Frostburg, MD 21532

Contact: Ron Shindledecker

Phone: 301-689-3860

[FEMA-THU-SALESTEAM@DHS.GOV](mailto:FEMA-THU-SALESTEAM@DHS.GOV)

**For inquiries/questions regarding payment and contractual  
issues, contact the following sales office:**

GSA, FAS, 3QSCA

Strawbridge's Bldg.

20 North 8th St., 10th Floor

PHILADELPHIA, PA 19107

Phone: 215-446-5065

Fax: 215-446-5117

[GSAAuctions.MidAtlantic@GSA.GOV](mailto:GSAAuctions.MidAtlantic@GSA.GOV)

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 19, 2007

Mr. R. David Paulison  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Department of Homeland Security  
500 C St. SW  
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Director Paulison,

We are writing to you regarding the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) decision to sell travel trailers to the general public through auctions sponsored by the General Services Administration (GSA).

As you know, media reports have indicated that travel trailer occupants have reported nosebleeds, sinus infections, asthma attacks, and other respiratory related illnesses. Tests conducted in 2006 found that the formaldehyde levels in most of the trailers tested exceeded the Environmental Protection Agency's recommended limit. While we understand that formaldehyde is commonly used in the fabricated wood and particle board in travel trailers, it should be noted that the International Agency for Research on Cancer classifies formaldehyde as a carcinogen.

Therefore, we would like to know whether FEMA has instructed GSA to issue appropriate disclaimers to potential buyers informing them that past occupants expressed adverse health affects potentially associated with their occupancy in these trailers. Although we are aware that FEMA has tested these claims, it is our understanding that the agency did urge occupants of the trailers to take certain precautionary steps to reduce the risk of exposure, such as assuring appropriate ventilation and employing measures to reduce humidity.

Thus, as these trailers enter the stream of commerce, we are concerned that potential buyers should have the necessary information which will enable them to make responsible decisions. Therefore, we would appreciate your response to the following questions:

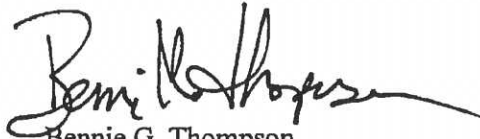
- 1) Has FEMA taken any actions to inform potential buyers of the adverse health consequences reported by trailer occupants?
- 2) What future actions will FEMA take to ensure that potential buyers of trailers are fully informed of past allegations and the associated health risks?

Pursuant to Rule X (3)(g) and Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, we request a response in writing no later than May 18, 2007. Should you have any questions, please contact Cherri Branson, Chief Oversight Counsel, Committee on Homeland Security, at (202) 226-2616. Thank you for your consideration in this important matter.



April 19, 2007  
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Sincerely,



Bennie G. Thompson  
Chairman  
House Committee on Homeland  
Security



Henry A. Waxman  
Chairman  
House Committee on Oversight and  
Government Reform

BGT/rdh